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(MIDFAST)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER MAY POSTPONE HIS EUROPEAN TRIP, SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND, BECAUSE OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

KISSINGER WILL PROBABLY HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE TOMORROW TO DISCUSS THE STRESS OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR ON SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, STATE A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT MCCLOSKEY SAID.

REPORTS THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION WERE RESUPPLYING THEIR OPPOSING ALLIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE POSED A THREAT TO THE PROGRESS OF DETENTE BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS.

MCCLOSKEY SAID WEDNESDAY OF THE REPORTED SOVIET AIR SUPPLY TO EGYPT AND SYRIA "IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE A MASSIVE AIRLIFT IT WOULD TEND TO PUT A NEW FACE ON THE SITUATION" IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

MCCLOSKEY TODAY REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION FELT PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLANS FOR FURTHER TENSION-EASING AGREEMENTS WITH RUSSIA HAD BEEN DAMAGED BY THE NEW CONFLICT.

MCCLOSKEY SAID THAT DESPITE THE DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER PERILS POSED BY THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, "WE ARE GOING TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE EUROPEAN DIALOGUE GOING TO ESTABLISH SOME COMMON PRINCIPLES." AS FOR KISSINGER'S PROPOSED TRIP TO PEKING DURING THE LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER, MCCLOSKEY SAID THAT SO FAR THERE HAD BEEN NO CONSIDERATION OF POSTPONING IT.

IT WAS CLEAR FROM MCCLOSKEY'S ANSWERS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT BRIEFING THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS DOING A LOT OF DIPLOMATIC ARM-TWISTING BEHIND THE SCENES IN AN EFFORT TO FIND A FORMULA FOR A CEASEFIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID THAT KISSINGER HAD TALKED AS RECENTLY AS LAST NIGHT WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR ANATOLI DOBRYNIN ABOUT THE MID-EAST CRISIS AND U. S. REPRESENTATIVES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING EGYPT, WERE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS ABOUT ENDING THE WAR.

MEANWHILE, U. S. OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE SOVIET AIRLIFT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE ARAB COMBATANTS, PRINCIPALLY SYRIA, WAS CONTINUING BUT THEY DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY THE AMOUNT OR CHARACTER OF THE RESUPPLY.

THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE UNITED STATES ALSO WAS ENGAGED IN A RESUPPLY PROGRAM FOR ISRAEL BUT ASSERTED THAT IT WAS RELATIVELY SMALL AND WOULD CONTAIN NO MAJOR EQUIPMENT UNLESS THEY FOUND THE RUSSIANS WERE SENDING MAJOR EQUIPMENT TO THE ARABS.

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